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control rats and mice



with
Anticoagulants

**TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

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Control Rats and Mice with

Anticoagulants

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
Texas Agricultural Extension Service
and
Rodent and Predatory Animal Control Service
cooperating

This leaflet gives information on using anticoagulants for rat and mouse control, and exposing and handling the baits for best results.

It is impossible to recognize the anticoagulants by trade names alone. In the table of active ingredients on the label there is a chemical name followed in parentheses by the word Chlorophacinone, Diphacin, Fumarin, Pival, PMP, Prolin or Warfarin. If others are developed, their names and characteristics will be available through county Extension agents and Rodent Control Service personnel. All are available in ready-to-use forms and usually are packaged in cardboard boxes or paper sacks.

Anticoagulants prevent blood from clotting and cause death from internal hemorrhages. Rats and mice must eat some of the bait every day for about 5 or 6 days, or every other day for 12 or more days before the hemorrhages are fatal. No effect is apparent for the first few days, but by the third or fourth day you will see some blood stains near the baits. Expose bait 10 days for rats and 15 days for mice, or until all signs of rodent activity have stopped.

Since no pain is connected with this action and there is no warning of danger, rats and mice apparently continue returning to feed if the bait is attractive.

EXPOSING THE BAIT

Use about $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of bait at each station. Place baits where rats and mice feed along walls, inside and outside buildings, in dark corners, under floors, in attics and under stairways. Bait the entire premises at one time. Place the bait in shallow dishes or small paper sacks. To hasten feeding, slit paper sacks at the side so that some of the bait will

spill out. Nail sacks to the floor or wall to prevent rats from dragging them away.

There is no hard and fast rule for the number of baits to distribute. For small buildings with a few rats, 2 pounds should be enough. If there are many rats, you may need 3 or 4 pounds. In large buildings with a few rats, 2 pounds may be enough; but if there are many rats, you may need 5 pounds before you complete the job. The average for a Texas farm is about 5 pounds. Two pounds is usually enough for a residence.

At first set many small baits to see where rats and mice prefer to eat and then move uneaten baits to these places. If you did not purchase enough bait at first, buy a new supply before containers are entirely empty. Where there is a source of reinfestation from other areas, such as dump grounds or nearby infested buildings, keep baits out at all times for new rats as they come in. Some anticoagulant baits may become weevily or rancid with age. Replace these with fresh bait.

In addition to the dry form, a water soluble material is available for use in water bait. This is particularly effective in dry surroundings. Use one packet per quart of water in baby chick water fountains or similar containers. Where freezing occurs, glass containers may break. A plastic container will not break if the liquid freezes. Freezing, however, does not seem to alter the effect of the anticoagulant.

MEASURING RESULTS

You cannot always measure results by counting dead rats. When baits are no longer being eaten, when there are no fresh droppings and when no live rats or mice are seen, results are as good as you can expect from any type bait.

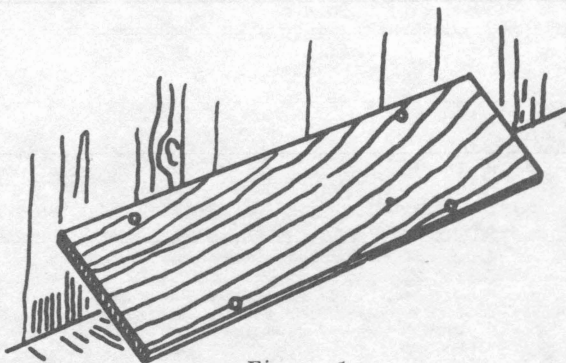


Figure 1.

BAIT BOXES

Place bait where only rats and mice can feed on it. Figure 1 shows a simple method of protecting bait.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Read the label carefully. Do not purchase bait that does not have full instructions on the label. Look for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration number.

Anticoagulant bait can harm any animal or human eating it every day or so for several days. In some cases, one feeding may cause death, but the amount would have to be large before this would happen. The larger the animal, the greater the amount it would have to eat.

But take no chances. Keep pets, livestock and people out of buildings where you place the bait, or use a bait box similar to the one illustrated.

When a human consumes an anticoagulant bait, force the person to vomit by administering a tablespoon of salt in a glass of warm water. Call a physician immediately. All anticoagulant labels or instruction leaflets give further instructions for physicians.

Destroy unused baits and containers by burning or deep burial. Store any bait or poison out of the reach of children, domestic animals or pets.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

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